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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

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FL. 285

HELENA INDEPENDENT-RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

JULY, 1968

Industrial Employment Near 200,000 Mark

Big Job Gains In June—Wet weather throughout much of the month of June had little effect on labor market momentum. The 6,300 workers added to June non-farm payrolls lifted total employment to 199,000. This was the largest single monthly job increase this year. The June job figure this year compares exactly with the same month last year. With several more good employment months ahead, a job peak of over 200,000 appears almost certain later this year. The 1967 non-farm job peak was recorded in July with 201,400 workers on non-farm payrolls. This was just prior to the start of the lengthy copper strike which began on July 15, 1967. Under normal conditions, job peaks in Montana are usually attained in August or September.

All Industries Post June Job Advances—All eight of the major industry groups which make up the base of Montana's industrial economy had more workers on payrolls in June than in May. Three industries — construction, service, and government — each recorded job gains of 1,400. Trade came next with 900 more workers on June payrolls. Manufacturing was up 700 with 600 of this number added to the durable goods group and 100 to the non-durable category. Employment advances of 200 each came in finance, insurance and real estate firms, and in the transportation, communications and utilities group. A more moderate gain

of 100 workers is shown for the mining industry.

Road to Recovery, Anaconda-Butte—Labor market conditions in Butte and Anaconda are gradually picking up after having been caught in an economic squeeze during the 8½ months of the copper strike. It will be some time, however, before economic conditions can match pre-strike levels. Payrolls in mining and smelting operations are about 2,000 short of the pre-strike employment figures. Some of the Butte men not recalled to their former jobs have been absorbed in smelter jobs at Anaconda and Great Falls. More than a hundred have reported to jobs in out of state mining firms. Job growth in other industry groups, including trade, service, and construction, in these two communities have shown moderate improvement in the last three months.

Statewide Jobseekers near 14,000 Mark—The 23 local offices of the Montana State Employment Service had 13,910 workers registered for jobs at the end of June. This was up 1,700 from the June 1967 worker inventory chiefly the result of workers still waiting recall to mining and smelting jobs. Anaconda, Butte, and Great Falls accounted for 32% of the statewide count of registered jobseekers this June. Included in the June labor surplus are many young people fresh from high school and college classrooms, a normal seasonal feature of the summer labor supply.

Trade, service, construction, and manufacturing industries are providing summer employment for some of these younger workers.

Job Placements Over 9,000 — Local employment offices throughout the state placed 9,029 workers in jobs during June. Of this number, 5,868 were placed in a variety of agricultural work while 3,161 went to jobs in industry and commerce. More than 1,400 workers were placed with trade and service firms. Construction and manufacturing accounted for 567 job placements. The balance were spread over four other major industry groups.

UCC Payments Less Than Last Year — Unemployment insurance benefits paid to eligible, unemployed workers totaled \$3,887,941 for the first six months of 1968. This compares with a claim payment figure of \$4,235,246 from January through June, 1967. Claim payments for the first six months of this year were \$347,305 less than the comparable period of 1967. Unemployed workers in Silver Bow County received \$603,677 in UCC benefit checks from January through June this year. During the same period UCC payments to claimants in other major counties were as follows: Cascade, \$441,035; Yellowstone, \$426,731; Flathead, \$330,181; Missoula, \$255,672; and Lewis and Clark \$183,735. There was a total of \$21,364,626 in the Unemployment Compensation trust fund on June 30, 1968.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	May 1968	Apr. 1968	May 1967	May 1968	Apr. 1968	May 1967	May 1968	Apr. 1968	May 1967	May 1968	Apr. 1968	May 1967	May 1968	Apr. 1968	May 1967
All Manufacturing	6.5	5.8	7.0	5.7	5.1	5.8	4.8	5.7	5.6	3.2	4.2	3.8	.9	.7	.6
Durable Goods	7.6	7.1	8.3	6.7	6.3	7.2	5.2	7.0	6.5	3.9	5.5	4.6	.4	.5	.2
Primary Metal	8.7	6.2	5.5	7.6	3.8	5.1	3.7	9.2	7.1	2.6	8.2	4.4	*	.2	*
Nondurable Goods	4.2	3.3	4.3	3.6	2.8	3.0	4.1	3.2	3.6	1.7	1.6	2.2	1.9	1.0	1.4
All Mining	8.9	6.9	4.8	1.6	2.5	2.3	30.3	6.5	9.2	9.0	2.0	3.4	19.3	2.6	3.7
Metal Mining	8.3	1.8	5.1	.8	.2	1.3	52.1	8.7	7.6	14.6	1.6	3.3	34.8	4.4	1.9

*Less than .05

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for June

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg — Job trends in most industry groups at fair schedule despite the present "no new hiring" policy at the smelter. Smelter employment expected to remain at current totals until early next year. The aftermath of the lengthy copper strike shows in little job activity on main street. Some optimism is seen in construction of new bank, addition to telephone company facilities, and small commercial building.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup — Good summer job trends evident in both industry and agriculture. Construction volume at good levels. Over \$4 million of new work started in June including 2 college buildings and a new shopping center. Highway construction projects in good progress. Work completed on \$18 million steam power plant. Trade employment up with opening of two discount stores, employing 75. Worker shortages include auto mechanics, auto body repairmen, and electronics servicemen. Farm labor demand increasing with haying season underway; some worker shortages exist.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident — Rain, which continued throughout most of June, cut into employment activity in most outdoor activities. Curtailed logging operations forced temporary shutdown of lumber mills. Construction also showed some decline during the wet period. The opening of a new shopping center and increased tourism made for good activity on main street. First cutting of hay started with many young workers being used in this activity.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall — The number of registered jobseekers remains high due to youth registration and the carryover of mining workers not yet recalled to jobs after the copper strike. Out of state mining firms still recruiting Butte men. Trade and service firms show some job improvement, but have some way to go before pre-strike job totals are reached. A new department store scheduled for August opening.

CUT BANK — More jobs in construction and resort oriented industries helped to reduce unemployment during June. Good number of young people seeking summer employment. Main street trends hold at good seasonal

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	June 68	May 68	June 67	May 68 to June 68	June 67 to June 68
Civilian Work Force					
Total Employment	290.9	267.1	290.2	23.8	.7
Total Non-agricultural	274.9	254.9	275.0	20.0	—1.0
Employment	230.7	222.6	231.7	8.1	—1.0
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	199.0	192.2	199.0	6.8	0.0
Total Agriculture Employment	44.2	32.3	43.3	11.9	.9
Labor Management Disputes	.1	.3	*	—2	.1
Total Unemployment	15.9	11.9	15.2	4.0	.7
Percent Unemployed	5.5	4.5	5.2	—	—
U.S. Unemployment Rate	—	2.9	4.6	—	—

*Less than 50

strength. Farm labor demand reduced by wet weather.

DILLON — Good agenda of building construction in progress including educational buildings, large sawmill, and \$40,000 church addition. Work on \$750,000 school started. Small mining operations in area plan more job expansion. Good farm labor demand finds adequate labor supply.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim — Affects of the closure of the air base are now keenly felt on main street. Exodus of military personnel and their families near completion. Construction hiring at minimum during June, but 150 employed on various projects. Farm hiring at low ebb.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux — Heavy volume of youth in summer labor market. Construction holds as main labor market activity. New work includes high school addition, and highway project. Airport construction begins mid-July. Main street business up with good tourist trade.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford — Heavy demands for workers in all occupations occurred during June. Trade industries accounted for bulk of new hires. Service industries at good strength as tourism continued at good pace. Smelter hiring put more men on payrolls weekly. Commercial and residential building permits totaled \$813,000 in June, up \$500,000 from same month year ago. Steady farm labor demand despite wet weather.

HAMILTON, Stevensville — Labor market activity kept fairly brisk during June despite wet weather. New hiring was chiefly in construction, trade, government, and private households. De-

mand for woods workers tapered off during the month. Excessive moisture slowed work in hay fields.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem — Job placements show good advance from last year, especially in construction and trade industries. Nearly \$2 million in building construction in progress. Harlem highway by-pass and street projects employ 35 men. Railroad hiring on fairly steady basis. Oil and gas drilling activities on the rise. Farm labor demand at good volume.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs — June labor demand was on unsteady schedules due to wet weather. Temporary layoffs on highway projects common during this period. No new construction of note during June. Demand for logging and sawmill workers and some clerical occupations were in evidence.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Whitefish — June workers shortages included cooks, waitresses, bookkeepers, stenographers, timber fallers, and skilled logging equipment operators. Construction labor demand eased off with completion of one major project, less road work, and downturn in commercial and home building because of tight money. Tourism boosted trade and service jobs.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett — Job advances appeared in both industry and farm segments with economic trends above year ago. Major contributor to current industrial climate is contract for missile remodification with several hundred employed. Good schedule of building construction in progress. Many youth employed in farm and ranch activities.

LIBBY — Libby Dam work force now building toward peak for season with

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1958	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	150.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.1	174.2	182.4	185.5	187.2	184.9	182.2	178.4	175.4	176.2
1965	167.9	167.4	168.9	174.4	179.8	188.7	189.6	192.1	189.9	188.1	185.3	183.6	181.3
1966	173.9	172.6	174.2	180.2	185.4	195.6	198.2	199.2	195.8	191.2	187.6	186.9	186.7
1967	179.9	178.5	180.1	184.6	188.7	199.0	201.4	196.6	195.4	193.8	191.7	189.7	189.9
1968	181.0	180.4	181.8	187.5	192.2	199.0*							

* Preliminary Estimate—

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for June

jobs now at the 1,700 mark. Great Northern tunnel bore completed with concrete lining next activity. Work started on \$2.5 million school. Railroad track location underway. No worker shortages at present.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber — New construction includes Billings-Anaconda power line and \$446,000 water system at Gardiner. Railroad employment at good levels but with little new hiring. Logging and mill activities unsteady during June because of rains. Trade and service provided good labor demand.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry — June rains slowed all outdoor activities including construction, oil fields, and agriculture. Bridge construction at Rosebud stopped by high water. Development of Bell Creek oil fields boosted city's population by 162 residents in month's time.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior — Substantial increase noted in registered jobseekers, many of them younger workers. Demand for construction workers easing off. Logging and mill jobs stay on stable basis but with some shortages of logging equipment operators at times. Trade and service benefits from tourist traffic.

POLSON—Slowdown of construction having some affect on local economy. All area road work now completed. Woods and mill work not too brisk for this time of year. Early active trends in main street trade and service firms.

SHELBY—Summer employment in industry and agriculture at normal seasonal strength. Some decline noted in oil field activity from last year. Main street labor demand keeps active in line with the season.

SIDNEY — June labor demand set back by rains which took its toll in construction, agriculture and other outdoor work. Job situations started to show improvement at month's end. Things look good on the farm front with sugar beet, grain and corn crops expected to produce good yields.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs — Good activity in the lumber industry highlighted June labor market conditions. Experienced fallers and logging equipment operators in short supply. Road construction held up by financing problems. Surplus of sales clerks current.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey — More job gains recorded in construction fields with all skilled labor employed. July will see start of work on new church and a bank. Cafes, service stations, and hospitals gave work to young workers. Farm labor demand increasing as haying season begins.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	June 1968 (2)	May 1968 (3)	June 1967	May '68 to June '68	June '67 to June '68
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	199,000	192,200	199,000	6,300	00
Manufacturing	23,500	22,800	24,000	700	— 500
Durable goods	15,900	15,300	16,000	600	— 100
Lumber and timber products	8,900	8,400	9,400	500	— 500
Primary metals	4,300	4,300	4,500	00	— 200
Other (4)	2,700	2,600	2,100	100	600
Nondurable goods	7,600	7,500	8,000	100	— 400
Food and kindred products	4,000	3,900	4,200	100	— 200
Printing and publishing	1,600	1,600	1,700	00	— 100
Petroleum refining	1,100	1,100	1,000	00	100
Other (5)	900	900	1,100	00	— 200
Mining	5,500	5,400	7,000	100	—1,500
Metal mining	3,000	3,000	4,600	00	—1,600
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	900	800	900	100	00
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,600	1,600	1,500	00	100
Contract Construction	12,400	11,000	12,600	1,400	— 200
Contractors, building construction	4,200	3,800	4,200	400	00
Contractors, other than building	4,600	3,700	4,500	900	100
Contractors, special trade	3,600	3,500	3,900	100	— 300
Transportation and utilities	18,100	17,900	18,400	200	— 300
Interstate railroads	7,100	6,900	7,500	200	— 400
Transportation except railroads	4,700	4,700	4,500	00	200
Utilities including communication	6,300	6,300	6,400	00	— 100
Trade	46,500	45,100	46,400	900	100
Wholesale trade	8,900	8,800	9,000	100	— 100
Retail trade	37,600	36,300	37,400	800	200
General merchandise and apparel	6,900	6,600	6,800	100	100
Food stores	5,500	5,400	5,400	100	100
Eating and drinking establishments	10,200	9,700	10,100	500	100
Automotive and filling stations	8,000	7,600	8,100	100	— 100
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	7,000	7,000	7,000	00	00
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,500	7,300	7,600	200	— 100
Services and miscellaneous	29,700	28,300	29,800	1,400	— 100
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	4,300	3,200	4,500	1,100	— 200
Personal services	2,100	2,100	2,300	00	— 200
Other (6)	23,300	23,000	23,000	300	300
Government	55,800	54,400	53,200	1,400	2,600
Federal	13,700	12,200	13,900	1,500	— 200
State and local	42,100	42,200	39,300	—100	2,800
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	25,100	24,900	24,400	200	700
*Manufacturing	3,900	3,900	3,600	00	300
Contract construction	2,300	2,200	2,100	100	200
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,100	2,300	00	— 200
Trade, wholesale and retail	6,400	6,400	6,100	00	300
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	4,000	4,000	3,900	00	100
Government	5,000	4,900	5,000	100	00
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	27,600	27,400	26,900	200	700
Manufacturing	2,900	2,900	2,900	00	00
Contract Construction	1,800	1,700	1,700	100	100
Transportation and Utilities	3,000	3,000	3,000	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	8,600	8,600	8,200	00	400
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,500	00	— 100
Services and Miscellaneous (7)*	5,200	5,100	5,100	100	100
Government	4,700	4,700	4,500	00	200

*Copper Strike Started 7/15/67

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 785 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,128 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation,

medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and business not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JUNE, 1968 AND JUNE, 1967

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								UI Claims*	
	June, 1968		June, 1967		June, 1968		June, 1967		June, 1968				June, 1967				Wk. 6-28	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1968	1967
Anaconda	230	17	313	31	297	54	273	39	112	13	125	8	241	9	250	13	82	79
Billings	547	269	568	229	1,457	501	1,731	619	532	1,504	2,036	359	477	1,529	2,006	275	426	522
Bozeman	420	62	508	67	255	74	284	74	207	38	245	58	324	50	374	84	41	68
Butte	723	80	604	113	2,065	375	1,019	154	50	5	55	11	140	7	147	44	602	255
Cut Bank	62	8	71	12	127	57	229	53	34	35	69	15	53	50	103	46	75	49
Dillon	99	38	113	38	88	19	87	25	37	91	128	44	49	83	132	55	21	33
Glasgow	95	7	177	30	239	18	162	14	80	6	86	6	120	15	135	24	43	36
Glendive	133	17	66	4	196	23	62	12	43	440	483	12	33	1,534	1,567	11	19	42
Great Falls	961	142	1,095	142	2,038	309	2,210	341	452	106	558	119	438	105	543	210	379	511
Hamilton	164	12	130	8	291	32	237	17	70	10	80	10	57	9	66	12	56	55
Havre	75	5	83	9	107	22	116	8	91	77	168	40	78	92	170	45	44	41
Helena	388	42	398	40	954	139	717	84	253	35	288	64	183	132	315	50	120	186
Kalispell	553	79	654	78	637	154	741	146	183	15	198	58	213	12	225	55	194	110
Lewistown	120	21	60	12	65	15	105	17	77	120	197	35	60	102	162	33	23	45
Libby	204	42	160	25	423	109	613	81	31	1	32	5	56	5	56	14	142	157
Livingston	96	15	96	13	178	21	173	19	143	24	167	37	100	31	131	29	26	38
Miles City	109	14	107	13	163	31	161	20	95	689	784	34	62	713	775	5	29	47
Missoula	963	188	848	170	1,828	436	1,751	359	276	52	328	76	351	24	375	102	226	271
Polson	204	16	203	16	365	32	275	32	39	3	42	11	37	3	40	8	45	30
Shelby	52	7	89	15	90	14	130	19	38	40	78	14	33	71	104	23	14	29
Sidney	110	4	89	6	142	3	114	5	65	2,486	2,551	12	74	2,816	2,890	14	11	23
Thom. Falls	50	9	42	9	107	21	78	19	21	1	22	5	29	4	33	4	48	25
Wolf Point	77	11	74	11	131	25	151	29	19	12	31	8	17	28	45	9	27	30
Billings YOC	687	11	695	15	1,669	24	785	11	213	65	278	5	132	168	300	6	---	---
TOTALS	7,122	1,116	7,243	1,106	13,910	2,508	12,204	2,197	3,161	5,868	9,029	1,046	3,357	7,587	10,944	1,171	2,693	2,682

*Includes 198 claims of the Fed. U.C. Program 158 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	June (1) 1968	May (2) 1968	June 1967	June (1) 1968	May (2) 1968	June 1967	June (1) 1968	May (2) 1968	June 1967
All Manufacturing	129.92	131.29	121.50	40.1	40.9	40.1	3.24	3.21	3.03
Durable Goods	127.75	129.37	119.58	40.3	41.2	40.4	3.17	3.14	2.96
Primary Metals	127.12	127.52	118.80	40.1	40.1	40.0	3.17	3.18	2.97
Nondurable Goods	133.91	135.94	126.47	39.5	40.1	39.4	3.39	3.39	3.21
Food and Kindred Products	127.20	129.13	118.58	41.3	42.2	41.9	3.08	3.06	2.83
All Mining	139.73	141.11	132.65	40.5	40.9	38.9	3.45	3.45	3.41
Metal Mining	142.96	142.96	131.13	41.8	41.8	37.9	3.42	3.42	3.46
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	121.27	120.87	118.90	39.5	39.5	39.5	3.07	3.06	3.01

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
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